

STATEMENT BY SENATOR STROM THURMOND (D-SC) WITH REFERENCE TO SENATE ACTION ON HIS ELECTION, JANUARY 5, 1957.

I had no knowledge of what had been prepared in the resolution by Senator Johnson. When it was presented, I left the Senate and did not participate in the discussion. I did not vote on the resolution.

The Constitution of the United States, upon which both State and Federal laws are based, specifically states:

"Each House shall be the judge of the elections, returns, and qualifications of its own members...."

Thus, the action of the Senate on my election was an exercise of the Senate's Constitutional prerogative, and in conformity with the law.

The precedents of the Senate give immediate expression to the will of the people on the filling of unexpired terms in the Senate rather than to gubernatorial appointments to fill such vacancies.

I accepted the Governor's appointment out of respect for the Office of Governor, though I had previously told the Governor that I did not think it necessary.

As to my States Rights views: I do not believe the good people of South Carolina have any fear that I shall ever embrace federalism.

END